The story of the period has been told again and again, often in much detail. Histories of China by Westerners have usually devoted half or more of their space to the years after 1839. It would be superfluous, therefore, to repeat extensively the narrative of the past ninety or a hundred years. If, however, this account of China's past is to be well-rounded, these momentous decades must be included, and because of their significance, especially for present-day China, we must go into them somewhat more fully than we have into any preceding era. It must always be remembered that we are still too near the events to view them in their true perspective. We must, however, make the effort so to see them, because upon the success with which we do so depends the accuracy of our understanding of the present situation. Time, too, may prove us to have been as competent judges as those who come after us.

The years after 1839 are divided by events into three main periods. First are slightly over two decades (1839-1860) during which in two wars (1839-1842 and 1856-1860) with Occidental powers China was defeated and forced to permit the Westerner to reside hrseveral important cities and *o travel freely elsewhere, and to grant him a certain degree of exemption from the jurisdiction of Chinese laws and courts. The treaties then exacted from Peking were the main framework of the legal basis for the Western penetration of China. During the uneasy truce (1842-1856) which separated the two wars a rebellion broke out (1848) which traced its history to contacts with the West and which devastated some of the Empire's fairest provinces and threatened to unseat the Manchus. The year 1860 ended with the

dynasty in a parlous condition—the nation saddled with treaties which compromised its independence and rebellions rampant.

There followed, in the second place, slightly more than three decades (1861-1893) when the dynasty and the Empire appeared to have recovered. The rebellions were suppressed and internal order restored. In spite of recurring friction with Western governments and occasional further concessions to them, major humiliations were avoided and some show of dignity maintained. However, while outwardly the structure of Chinese life was little altered, influences from abroad were undermining it.

Then came, in the third place, beginning with 1894, a period, still unfinished, when the framework of Chinese civilization began